

**MINUTES OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

29 March 2019

File 82-27

In Attendance:	Richard Blanchette	-	Chairman
	Randy Price	-	Vice Chairman
	Wayne Martin	-	Member
	Bob Cl��roux	-	Member
	Jay Milne	-	Member
	Carolyn Gasser	-	Secretary
	Mike Smith	-	A/Secretary
	Nujma Bond	-	Communications Manager

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting of the Defence and Security (D&S) Committee was convened at Legion House on 29 March 2019 at 1000 hours.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

It was agreed that point 9 b. of the agenda, titled "D&S Support to RCL Public Affairs", be advanced for an immediate discussion to accommodate Comrade Nujma's schedule.

MOTION: That the agenda be accepted with the modification proposed.

CARRIED

3. D&S Support to RCL Public Affairs

The Chair explained that he had had some exchanges with Comrade Nujma concerning the actual and potential role of the D&S Committee with regards to Public Affairs. Accordingly, he has invited her to attend the meeting to facilitate a discussion on the subject.

Comrade Nujma stressed the importance for the Legion to timely present its position on various issues, including some that are in the D&S Committee's purview. Being both proactive when possible and reactive when situations dictate is key. Some of these subjects are national procurement, defence budgets and various human resources issues. Remaining apolitical is a cardinal rule and in some cases, it might be difficult to comment on specific cases.

A discussion ensued and there was a general agreement that Comrade Nujma should continue liaising with our Committee's Secretary for any exchange of information or requests for support, noting that our Committee's terms of reference should be used to determine the range of related subjects. As each member of the D&S Committee being from a different service, it was recognized that there is always a possibility that one of them be employed in a spokesperson role, if it is deemed appropriate to do so.

4. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed Mr. Jay Milne, a new member for the D&S Committee. He will be responsible for the Army focus of the Committee.

The Chair announced that Comrade Brad White will be replaced by Comrade Steven Clark as the National Executive Director of Dominion Command. Comrade Chris Richardson, President of the OSI Special Section, will be replaced by Comrade Jill Carleton and Mathew Overton, Executive Director of the CDA, will be replaced by Dr. Youri Cormier.

5. DRAFT LOU WITH CDA/CDAI

The Chair attended the Conference of Defence Associations (CDA) AGM on 11 February 2019. At that meeting, the CDA chair and the Executive Director reiterated their interest in cooperating with the Legion for the development of an advocacy platform from the feedback that will eventually be received from the D&S Command Representatives (CR) network. The Chair of the D&S committee informally presented the latest version of the letter of understanding (LoU) to VAdm (ret) Rouleau (CDA Chairman) to continue the consultation process between the two organizations.

MOTION: That the latest version of the LoU (Version 5 dated 29 March 2019 – attached) be initially reviewed by the Constitution and Laws (C&L) Committee with a view to later individually obtain signatures from the six signatories.

CARRIED

The Chair explained that this motion is sufficient to initiate consultation with the C&L Committee, but a motion should be presented to and be carried at DEC to facilitate the sequential signature of the document.

The Chair also spoke of the requirement for the Committee to have one point of contact for CDA and it was agreed that this function should remain with our Secretary, Comrade Carolyn Gasser. He also reported that CDA was hoping to have some volunteers to join the three OP RENEW CDA working groups (advocacy, best practices, and resources & revenues). The chair asked the members to consider volunteering and there was a discussion concerning the possibility of asking Comrade Nujma to tentatively attend the first meeting of the advocacy WG.

Comrade Carolyn was asked to convey to her this request. These groups will meet soon and CDA is asking that the first report be provided by 19 September 2019.

ACTION: Chair/Members/Secretary

6. ADDENDUM to DEC REPORT

It was agreed that an addendum to the DEC report be prepared to include points stemming from this Committee meeting or any other last-minute matters not included in the initial report.

7. NIJMEGEN APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Committee recognized the very impressive quality of applications for Nijmegen 2019. Members individually reviewed the applications prior to the meeting and discussed various aspects. As both first and alternate candidates were able to participate in 2018, it was decided that three candidates would be selected this year while awaiting a CAF confirmation of the number of Legion representatives allowed to participate.

The three top candidates are respectively Comrade Colin Robinson from Quebec, Comrade Douglas Cody from Ontario, and Comrade Derk Grooten from BC/Yukon.

The Secretary will advise the CAF of this selection and provide their contact information. If #3 or #2 are not participating in the 2019 Nijmegen March, they will be given an advantage if they reapply for 2020, should they still be deemed fit and willing to participate.

ACTION: Chair/Secretary

8. UPDATE FROM VSS COMMITTEE

The Secretary, as Deputy Director of Veterans Services, provided an update from the Director of Veterans Services and Secretary of the VSS Committee, Comrade Ray McInnis.

We have a new Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lawrence MacAulay. The President has not had the opportunity to meet with him yet. Pension for Life implementation was coming on 1 April 2019 and VAC has been extremely busy working on the changeover.

She provided some general information about the upcoming CIMVHR forum and initiatives such as Project Healing Waters, Mefloquine research, and Project Trauma Support, which is a residential healing program for post-traumatic growth. These will be discussed further at the upcoming DEC meeting as to whether the Legion can support them.

A Legion Veterans Homelessness Guideline has been developed and will be presented at DEC. It will provide guidelines for Commands to either adopt or use to improve their existing programs but they are not mandatory.

She advised that the number of claims handled by RCL Service Officers (including First Applications, Departmental Reviews, and those withdrawn) have significantly increased from 2017 to 2018. Overall, they have increased from 3,774 to 4,824, with the largest increase being in Departmental Reviews from 151 to 552 in 2018.

9. REVIEW OF NAVY, AIR FORCE, ARMY AND RCMP ACTIVITIES

RCN – Comrade Bob met with Vice Admiral Lloyd and CPO1 Vigneault recently and both will retire in June. Replacements have not been officially announced but it is expected that Rear Admiral McDonald and CPO1 Steebbs will take over next year.

He also recently met with CWO Remy Lapointe to speak about the Transition Group and will meet soon with CPO1 Luc Tremblay, another Chief within Transition Group. The CAF is still experiencing 10K to 11K releases per year. Recruiting and retention continues to be an issue for the entire Armed Forces including the Navy.

The Navy is relatively happy with the progress of shipbuilding and HMCS Harry Dewolf is the first of the AOPS that will be Commissioned later this summer. The Commander of the RCN was recently quoted as saying he was very pleased with the announcement of the team that will build the CSC, while the tanker replacement is progressing on the West Coast.

CA – The Chair advised that Op Honour's 4th progress report was recently published. The Sexual Misconduct Resource Centre has seen an increase in the number of complaints, but it is not clear if it is due to an increase in misconduct events or to a greater awareness at this point.

He provided an update on Op Lentus for spring flooding. On Op Reassurance in Central and Eastern Europe, he reminded the Committee that Canada currently has the leadership of one of the international Battle Groups. On Op Unifier in Ukraine, we now have an extension up to March 2022. He also quickly mentioned smaller missions like five officers in Kosovo and one Intelligence officer still serving in Cyprus.

RCAF – Comrade Randy advised that the Air Force still has a strong presence in Mali and that there is still a significant shortfall in pilots and technicians.

RCMP - Comrade Wayne advised he and the Chair will be meeting with RCMP Commissioner Lucki on Friday April 12.

He advised the RCMP members in Quebec have launched a workplace harassment class action lawsuit for any RCMP member who has worked in or lived in Quebec and was subject to some form of supervisor abuse. The number of parties to the lawsuit remains to be determined.

The process of RCMP member representation (unionization) is on hold due to the Members in Quebec filing suit to form their own union but the rationale for this is unknown. As a result, all RCMP members remain without representation until this matter is resolved.

10. NEW OR GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. **Merchant Navy Service Medal** – Mr. Christopher Sallows has sent a letter to the Dominion President asking the Legion to support his project for a “Merchant Navy Service Medal (MNSM)”. From the letter, it is not possible to ascertain the current status of the project, nor is it possible to know what is the Chancellery’s position.

The Committee concluded that the Dominion President is not in a position to support this project, in whole or with regards to the various options outlined in the letter. This initiative appears to have been launched on an individual basis and it behooves Mr. Sallows to present his arguments directly to the Chancellery at Rideau Hall. He reports having already done this, but the Dominion President has no role to play in this ill-defined third party consultation process.

There was a discussion in the Committee to determine if matters related to the Merchant Navy were within this Committee’s TORs. There was a clear agreement that they were not as they do not relate to serving CAF or RCMP members. If the DEC wishes to make the Committee responsible for all heraldic and chancellery issues, it should agree on such a motion, with the caveat that human resources are limited within the Committee. Meanwhile, Dominion Command secretarial support should be tasked to draft an appropriate reply to Mr. Sallows.

ACTION: Secretary

- b. **Other Business** – There was a discussion about upcoming office calls with various Commanders, including the Commissioner of the RCMP. It was agreed that we would wait for the new Commander RCN to take his post before asking for an office call. It was also agreed that we should arrange a meeting with the Commander of the

new Transition Group of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF TG) as it has a mandate to support all members with professional service as they transition from active duty to post-military life.

11. FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 22 May 2019 at 13:30.

ACTION: Secretary

12. CLOSING COMMENTS

Comrade Randy announced that this would be his last meeting. The Chair thanked him for all his hard work and dedication to the Committee for many years. As he was the Deputy-Chair, the Chair asked all members to consider whether they would consider taking on this additional responsibility.

ACTION: All members

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours along with the proper closing ritual.

Original signed by

Richard Blanchette
Chairman



Carolyn Gasser
Secretary

Dated this day of 9 April 2019

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